

24 January 1997

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To: Chief of Naval Personnel (PERS-440C)

Subj: END OF TOUR REPORT

Ref: (a) CHNAVPERS WASHINGTON DC 301105Z OCT 96

1. As directed in reference (a), this report is submitted to provide a record of experiences for the 1996 Royal Naval Staff Course (RNSC) at Greenwich, England. While a summary of my tour would be categorized as very positive, my class was the last to graduate from Greenwich. Beginning in 1997 all single service British staff colleges will amalgamate into the Joint Service Command and Staff College (JSCSC). While this new institution is currently in the planning stages, I will provide as much information regarding its future as of my departure in December 1996. Although specifics for future students will not become available until the first class is complete, I will provide a series of general recommendations which should prove helpful.

2. Location. The new JSCSC is scheduled to administer the 1997 and 1998 classes at Bracknell, site of the former Royal Air Force (RAF) Staff College. This location is intended to be an interim locale until the final site is determined and requisite construction can be completed. As of my departure, two prospective final locations were being considered. They were Shrivenham, the British Army's post graduate education site; and Camberley, the site of the former British Army Staff College.

3. Class Size. While the class size at Greenwich was approximately 70, the new JSCSC is expected to total some 300. Nearly half of these students will be from the British Army. The RAF and Royal Navy (RN) contingent are expected to remain near 70 respectively. Additionally, as the Greenwich class was subdivided into syndicates of 9 officers, the JSCSC is expected to administer syndicates with 15 officers.

4. Academic Year. The JSCSC is expected to incorporate an academic year beginning in September and ending in June. International students will begin in either July or August depending on whether attendance at the British language school in Beaconsfield is required. U.S. officers do not attend the Beaconsfield course as English is their mother tongue. This change in academic year fits well with dependents' schooling and the extended length will allow more time for individual in-depth study. However, the one major disadvantage appears to be the availability of base housing. With the increase of students and the extension of the academic year, there is anticipated overlap of classes which could affect the time which families of the incoming class could join their sponsors.

5. Curriculum. There appears to be little change to the broad areas of instruction to be presented. The curriculum will focus on Strategy & Policy, Joint Operations, Defense Economics and International Relations. British Ministry of Defence (MOD) staff training will continue with emphasis on written and oral briefs.

6. Masters Program. It is expected that the Master of Arts (MA) program will continue at the JSCSC although there is no guarantee. This degree of MA in Defence Studies is offered by King's College, University of London in cooperation with the staff college. King's College enjoys an outstanding reputation throughout England and Europe as a leading institution in international strategic and defense studies. The MA degree required a substantial amount of additional work, approximately 30%, above and beyond

standard course assignments. The unknown regarding the future MA program is its cost. While at Greenwich the cost was minimal, approximately 300 British pounds. However, for the JSCSC, there were rumors that the cost of the degree could escalate as high as 2000 British pounds.

7. Recommendations. Although the Royal Naval Staff Course at Greenwich no longer exists, there are some basic recommendations for future students which will continue to remain pertinent for the new Joint Service Command and Staff College.

a. Ensure reporting date is one month prior to the first day of class for international officers. This will allow enough time to get into housing and adapt to living abroad.

b. Live in British Married Quarters if possible. While the quality of the quarters may be below U.S. standards, the camaraderie of living alongside other international families more than compensated for any deficiencies.

c. Read the NATO handbook as well as any articles regarding the United Nations prior to arriving. The U.S. is questioned in these areas and new students need to be prepared to analytically argue America's position early in the course.

d. Participate in the MA program. It is a good degree from a prestigious university with a strong reputation in the field of defense.

e. Bring a personal computer and printer. Become familiar with the software to be used by the JSCSC before arriving. At Greenwich the standard for data processing was Microsoft Word and Power Point. While the number of computers was adequate, a personal computer provided the flexibility of working in the comfort of your own home.

f. The first student to attend the JSCSC begin compiling a new pass-down file as soon as possible. The one for Greenwich was extensive and provided outstanding information. Moreover, it is important that new students receive a verbal pass-down from the resident student. To ensure this continuity, I can be reached through the VAQ-129 training office, (360) 257-8142/DSN 820-8142.

g. Finally, coordinate follow-on orders as early as possible. This will assist in a smooth transition from abroad.

8. In summary, studying overseas was a professionally broadening and personally rewarding experience. It proved one of the most positive highlights of my naval career. A lot can be learned about one's self through the eyes of others. I am now much more comfortable in defending America's political interests and military position as a result of this exposure. As long as the MA program remains integral to the future course, I strongly recommend this opportunity to anyone ready to accept the challenge.



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